What we claim is:

1.   A load balancer comprising:

means for extracting identifying information specific to a mobile IP terminal from an arrival packet; and

5   means for determining a destination server to be connected based on the identifying information.

2.   The load balancer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identifying information comprises a home address included in a destination option header of the packet.

10   3.   The load balancer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identifying information is prescribed in predetermined lower bits of a source address of a packet utilizing a stateless address configuration method.

4.   The load balancer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the identifying information comprises a security parameter index of the packet if

15   encrypted.

5.   A load balancer comprising:

means for requesting a home agent to notify a change of a care-of address when the care-of address of a terminal has changed upon an arrival of a first packet addressed to a server; and

20   means for determining a destination server to be connected by regarding the notified care-of address as identifying information.

6.   A load balancer comprising:

means for requesting a terminal to notify a change of a care-of address when the care-of address of the terminal has changed upon an

25   arrival of a first packet addressed to a server; and

means for determining a destination server to be connected by regarding the notified care-of address as identifying information.

7.   The load balancer as claimed in claim 2 wherein when the extracting means extract a packet transmitted from a home link upon

30   an arrival of the packet and the packet does not have the destination option header, the determining means determine the destination

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server by regarding a source address of the packet as the identifying information.

8. The load balancer as claimed in claim 1 wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet.

9. The load balancer as claimed in claim 5 wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet, and the table prepares an entry with a new care-of address as a retrieval key when the new care-of address has been notified, and stores, as storing data, an address of the destination server stored as data of an entry of an old care-of address.

10. The load balancer as claimed in claim 9 wherein the determining means store a lifetime in the data of the entry, periodically decrement the lifetime, update the lifetime every time a packet using the entry has arrived, and invalidate the entry upon expiration of the lifetime.

11. The load balancer as claimed in claim 1 wherein a home agent of a mobile IP terminal as a substitute for the server is made a destination to be connected.

12. A home agent which notifies, according to a request from a load balancer, binding cache information managed by the home agent itself to the load balancer periodically or when triggered in operation by a change of a care-of address of a mobile IP terminal.

13. A mobile IP terminal which notifies, according to a request from a load balancer, binding cache information managed by the mobile IP terminal itself to the load balancer periodically or when triggered in

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operation by a change of a care-of address of the mobile IP terminal itself.

14. The load balancer as claimed in claim 7 wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet.

15. The load balancer as claimed in claim 6 wherein the determining means are provided with a table for storing an address of the destination server having a source address associated with the care-of address as a retrieval key, thereby determining the destination server using the source address of the arrival packet, and the table prepares an entry with a new care-of address as a retrieval key when the new care-of address has been notified, and stores, as storing data, an address of the destination server stored as data of an entry of an old care-of address.

16. The load balancer as claimed in claim 15 wherein the determining means store a lifetime in the data of the entry, periodically decrement the lifetime, update the lifetime every time a packet using the entry has arrived, and invalidate the entry upon expiration of the lifetime.